

## **Meeting Minutes:**

### **DAC Phase 2 Meeting #2**

Harrington School

May 22, 2003

#### Introductory comments by Alan Burne

Scheme 4A changed to allow tennis court/parking structure to remain

#### Design Presentation by Clifford Gayley:

Scheme 4a modified was presented.

The basic organizing principles of Scheme 4A have been preserved, including 1) not pushing the south façade of the new addition in front of the historic structure, 2) not allowing the north façade of the new addition to go past the north façade of the Sakey wing, to allow “breathing room” for the school, and 3) keeping the massing down to 3 stories maximum, and 4) maintaining a setback of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the South façade.

The new design includes the redistribution of approximately 11,000 sf due to the loss of footprint area. This has been achieved by the creation of a new basement mezzanine level, and by pushing the southern edge of the third floor forward to the main (east-west) ridge line of the historic structure.

The building has been organized into four zones, which run east-west through the addition. The most southerly is a reading area, then browsing/interactive, circulation, and solid/enclosed functions. Each of these zones runs vertically from the first floor to the roof, and helps to create a coherent organization to the building as a whole.

#### Design Presentation by Pamela Hawkes:

The nature of the connection between the new and existing buildings was presented. Various widths and heights of connection were shown, with a preference for a thin, 2 story connector, with a “plinth” extending east from the historic structure at the existing first floor level. This raised area would 1) provide a visible connection between the two halves of the building, providing a more unified appearance, 2) allow the Library to incorporate outdoor reading spaces in secure areas, 3) allow the new basement mezzanine to connect with the existing basement, and 4) allow the elevators required for handicapped access to the historic structure to be inside the new addition, rather than in the existing building or next to the historic façade.

#### Design Presentation by Clifford Gayley:

A split level first floor was shown, which would reinforce the connection to the historic structure, and allow views of the park from further back in the building. This would allow the main entry to be at grade, with internal circulation up 42” to the level of the existing first floor.

A basic program distribution diagram was presented, as follows:

- Basement: Public Meeting Rooms, Staff Workrooms, Mechanical spaces. Meeting rooms could be accessed independently of the secure area of the Library.
- Basement Mezzanine: Fiction Collection (partial), Staff Offices, Staff Workrooms. These areas would be easily reached from the secure area of the Library via an open stair.
- Ground Level: Entry / Circulation, Periodicals, New Book Browsing, AV, Young Adult, Fiction Collection (partial), Administration. These very public functions would draw people into the library.

- Second Floor: Reference Collection, General Collection (non fiction), Cambridge Room. These more quiet functions would be grouped together.
- Third Floor: Children's Department. Allows "Library within a Library", removed from other functions and patrons. Would allow a safe, secure outdoor roof deck to be added to program for the children.

#### DAC Comments

*John Gintell* – Congratulations on excellent progress. Be sure to design in bike racks.

*Ruth Butler* – Confirmed that there would be seating on both first and second floors facing Park, and that entry would not be through the Café. He very much likes the design of the connector to the historic structure, and the Children's Department on the Third Floor.

*Roger Boothe*: Very exciting development of the design; an "Ah Ha" moment.

*Janet Axelrod*: Suggested that the design team visit Baldwin and Haggerty Schools which successfully put Children's areas on upper floors.

#### Public Comment

Old entrance should be activated.

Southern façade should be designed for energy efficiency.

*Rich Rossi*: This will be a certified green building.

Be aware of sound isolation from the tennis courts.

Thanks to the organizers for providing a microphone for the public comments.

Assume Café to have significant patronage from students and teachers.

Any problems with parents' reaction to Third Floor Children's Department?

*Elizabeth Gibb*: Use of natural light can decrease dependence on artificial light in building

Can building be shortened?

How many levels in the building? 3 floors above grade, 2 floors below grade, with basement and first floor having split-levels.

#### DAC Comment

*Carla Bosco*: Is there a problem with having Children's Department separate from Young Adult? With having Children's Department so far removed from meeting spaces?

*Susan Flannery*: YA is to be aimed at high school rather than middle school age, so YA in active, adult area is appropriate. The building program includes a craft room and program room, so separation from public meeting rooms should not be a problem.

*James Roosevelt*: It is preferable to treat high school age students as young adults rather than mature children, so YA in first floor appropriate.

*Carla Bosco*: Questioned possibility of having new building reflect old design.

*Alex Duval*: It is appropriate for addition to be contemporary, and reflect the time we live in now.

*Ruth Butler*: The Architect should be able to remain true to their vision.

*Janet Axelrod*: Concerned about how much of the program is underground, and would support more above grade building.

*Cliff Gayley*: Some of the below grade spaces will be able to get natural light through the use of clerestory windows.

*Hugh Russell*: Since Meeting rooms function with opaque walls, perhaps it is just as well that they are in the basement.

*Rich Rossi*: The building will make use of modern techniques to create an efficient building

*John Gintell*: Please show how people will arrive from public transportation, car, foot, and bicycle.

*Alan Burne:* Next meeting June 10th. To focus on Park. DAC to provide Landscape Architects with input on goals and objectives. Meeting on July 30 to focus on potential alternative landscape designs.

*Laura Solano:* Requested that DAC members visit the site, and note what does and does not work.

*Alan Burne:* Other Meetings: June 2 MC-CDC to review revised massing. August 4 MC-CDC to review proposed landscape options. Late August or Early September DAC meeting to review the “sense of the building”.